- Manufacture of bulk drugs from basic stages
- Inadequate emphasis on sales of formulations to the trade market
- Most products being under price control
- High employment costs
- Incidence of policy change with regard to import of bulk drugs
- High interest burden
- Decline in budgetary support
- Inherited second rate technology
- Inadequacies, particularly in the centralized utilities and services and locational disadvantages.

Development of FACT

148. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for development and improvement of FACT;

(b) whether any proposal has been submitted by FACT in this regard with the consultation of union leaders of FACT; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The Government has made provision of Rs. 35.00 crore as budgetary support during the current financial year for FACT to enable it to implement essential renewals and replacements and upgradation schemes directed towards improving the health of its plants and their overall performance.

(b) and (c) A proposal seeking reliefs and concessions, *inter-alia* including waiver of interest on Government loans for the ammonia replacement plant, conversion of the balance loan into equity and

fresh capital investment on new schemes, etc. has been received from FACT.

Purchase of Urea Strippers Through Global Tenders

149. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Thal unit of Rashtriya Chemicals And Fertilizers Limited (RCFL) is contemplating to purchase urea strippers through Global tenders;

(b) if so, whether there has been deviation of tender norms by RCFL in order to favour a particular firm after finalization and opening of bid by floating the idea of deemed export;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would place the order strictly according to tender norms on the lowest bider and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) has floated tenders for procuring urea strippers to replace old strippers at its Thal unit as per the normal purchase procedures.

(b) and (c) The tenders for procurement of this item, including the issue of deemed export benefits admissible on the same, are still under examination and evaluation by RCF.

(d) Purchase decision will be taken by RCF on completion of this process, in accordance with the prescribed procedure and the norms.

Consumption of urea and DAP in Rajasthan

†150. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total consumption of urea and DAP in Rajasthan during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.